

UNCLASSIFIED		CONFIDENTIAL		SECRET	
(SENDER WILL CIRCLE CLASSIFICATION ON TOP AND BOTTOM)					
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY OFFICIAL ROUTING SLIP					
TO		INITIALS	DATE		
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☐ APPROVAL
☐ ACTION
☒ COMMENT
☐ CONCURRENCE

☐ INFORMATION
☐ DIRECT REPLY
☐ PREPARATION OF REPLY
☒ RECOMMENDATION

☐ SIGNATURE
☐ RETURN
☐ DISPATCH
☐ FILE

STAT

Remarks: Fully concur with
 Coverage responsibility has evolved according to plan, and no whimsy or casual thought was involved.
 If we have any complaint with

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the way BBC handles or
need for greater exploitation,
we should make it known to
BBC. I believe they will do
their best to comply.

Having heard me I am
sure you can understandly

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FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

Post Office Box No. 1

Kyrenia, Cyprus

10 December 1954

[Redacted]
Foreign Broadcast Information Service
2430 E Street, N.W.
Washington 25, D.C.

25X1

[Redacted] Subject: Voice of Arabs

25X1

In answer to paragraph 3 of your letter of 17 November 1954 -- subject: Visit of Mr. Campbell and Mr. Way -- I should like to explain the Bureau position on the Voice of Arabs program broadcast by Cairo Radio.

BBC assumed responsibility for the 4-hour program at its inception. The Bureau, however, has covered an hour and a half portion of the program for some time, first, because there was interference from Paris Radio, and second, because the BBC Arabic team was understaffed. There is apparently no longer any interference from Paris. During the summer BBC hired another Arabic monitor, and on 21 November after the completion of leaves the augmented Arabic team became ready for duty. BBC, therefore, assumed coverage on that date as it was ready and able to monitor the complete program with only occasional help needed from Bureau backstopping.

It is felt here that it would be better to have the entire program monitored at one station. For us to assume the 4-hour commitment would mean extreme pressure on the Arabic Section, a transfer of some present commitments to BBC, or drop in other coverage. There has been considerable pressure on the Section, particularly during leaves, since the loss of monitors from the Persian Section. One vacancy was filled by an internal transfer of a Turkish-Arabic-Persian monitor. His services are no longer available to the Arabic Section. Recently Yerevan began broadcasting in Kurdish, a program being monitored by a man from the Arabic Section. Transfer of coverage does not seem feasible since this seems possible only through splitting coverage of home service programs, particularly Cairo, which the Bureau deems unwise. Dropping of present coverage would be inadvisable.

BBC now monitors broadcasts from and broadcasts to North Africa -- the quasi-clandestine broadcasts over Budapest frequencies being one of the latter -- and therefore BBC has greater area familiarity.

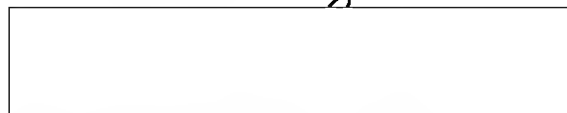
It is agreed that the Mediterranean Bureau monitors are better qualified to cover Arabic broadcasts, but it is felt here that these capabilities should be used to monitor the home service.

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BBC assumed full coverage of the Voice of Arabs on 21 November before your letter arrived. It is recommended that BBC continue to have full responsibility for this coverage, that FBIS Caversham be instructed to see that BBC processes pertinent material, and that FBIS Caversham file such material as needed for Washington analysis.

Sincerely,

A rectangular box with a black border, used to redact the signature of the official.

Chief, Mediterranean Bureau

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